[c 25 Jan 1792]

From---William Rotch,

Dunkirk, England.

To-----Samuel Rodman,

Nantucket, Massachusetts.

On Back Of Letter The Following Is Written-

Letter from-- Wm. Rotch, Dunkirk, Jan. 25,1792.

"Ann"

C/o--Jos. Chase via Havre, 5M. 1792.

William Rotch & Sons

To the care of

William Rotch, Jr.

New Bedford, Mass.

Items Of Interest

Shipping

Whaling

Building of Vessels, material used etc.

Slave Trade

#1p1

Dunkirk, 1st mo.25th. 1792.

Dear Son Samuel Rodman,

I wrote thee the 15th ult. c/o Gilbert Swain via Virginia and the 29th p/p the ~~New~~ ~~York~~ Packet since which I have recd. thy acceptable letter of the 10th mo. 29th to 11th mo. 3rd p/p Capn. Maxfield who arrived safe the 10th Inst. his Cargo was sold before his arrival at ~~£~~ 80. pr. Ct a good price untill the rapid fall of the money; I am glad we have a little parcel, as we can lay out the Money in a ship I expect to advantage, but fear Wm. and Thomas(Thos) in all their speculations in that article to Havre will never see more than their first cost and Charges so far as they draw payt. in London. Exche* now is £42- and I am surprised to find by Wms.* letter that all their Shipments up to 120 tuns have remained in Hombergs hands untill now,and when he wrote was about drawg* for them; Why he did not order the money immediately on the Sale to be remitted to London I cannot conceive, as I think he must through some of my letters to thee have seen that to have been my constant practice when we had any surplus untill it got to 32,-as it might, as I have constantly mentioned be redrawn when Livers* could be sold in America;-we shall remit no more at the high exche.* but lay it out in Ships and outfit, so far as we want, and then keep the oils, to sell as we have occassion for money, as the oil does not rise in proportion to the Exchange; therefore desire thou would not purchase a Hull as I mentioned in my last; expect we can make better purchases in this country on acct. of the stagnated West Indian trade, and of Ships that will much outlast ours; we are now looking out for two at Havre(not having succeeded in London for wch.* I am glad) for O.Paddack and O. Fitch,(whom we wish to retain, being good men for the business) in lue of the Maria and Falkland;the first I have already wrote pressingly to have timber provided, as for the Canton with the addition of a whole set of Top timbers, as we propose sendg, her to America for repairs, but to have it done ~~here~~ with season'd timber as she may be kept as long as is necessary for that purpose.-we are undetermined what to do

with the Falkland, she is too small for profit, I wish we could sell her; her voige* was just about 50 tuns, sold at 56 sous, head at the works at 3 livers* — I wrote Wm. on her arrivalc/o Packet after thine and desired he would communicate the intelligence to thee- Obed as I there mentioned left the Penelope and Mary on the Coat(Coast) of Peru. the first with 750 Bl.* 7th mo. 23rd-the latter, heard of about 6th mo. 15 with 100Bs.* both Sperm-Prince Coleman 1000--Laban Coffin about 380, all sperm and David Starbuck 290, same kind--if Brock and Worth should arrive safe, its probable we shall sell no more of their Cargoes than we can lay out here to advantage, as the surplus will be better in oil than paper. We expect to take up all the Falklands and Marias voiges* and their Bounties, with the Lydias and Diannas last and the two Friends(neither of which is yet paid) in two Ships and their outfits; am sorry livers* are so bad, I think Anthony did well in the Sale of the last 50,000.- I have wrote them to purchase us a good second hand Ship from 240 to 300 tuns,if to be done with livers* at not more than 12 ½ % loss including their commission and not to exceed the value of £-1300 for one very good and large,(but for Stg. Bills, I would not have one purchased at any rate. Also I directed them to draw if they could sell, 30 or 40,000 livs.* for that purpose and 20,000 more at same rate for they use, with such addition as thou ~~would~~ should direct; (I have countermanded the circulating 50,000) but doubt their being able to execute either, and am afraid to go higher least a change of Currency should take place here and produce a loss on that hand.-I am glad thou art sending us Beef etc. and but little porks as porks can yet be put up here at 6¾ sous & Ld. in assignats, which is cheaper than we can get it from America with the loss of Exchange; Beef is the same price as pork, therefore that will be better purchased in America; the assence of Spruce will be very acceptable,(as we have got it from London at the price of 30/6 Stg. per box of 12 small pots) get the other 3 bs. wch.* will be ind.* but when it comes here don't let it be known what it is, as we mean

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to make some advantage in the Sales. I expect we shall be able to import wheat for our flour and Bread for our next outfit to advantage, but cannot now determine; Sugar and molasses are at enormous prices, more on acct. of the devastation in the West ~~Inds~~ Inds,* than the depreciation in the paper; the same causes must operate in America; a little pamphlet lately puplished in Engld.*entitled "an address to the people of Gt. Britian on the propriety of Abstaining from the use of Wt. Indn. Sugar and Rum,"(which I doubt not has reached America e're now,)has had so powerful an effect on our family, (~~save*servants~~(servants excepted) if on the principles of humanity only, (on which the author found his subject) as to wholly renounce that agreeable luxury,(sugar of W. Inds.), it is true the Coffee, Tea, Apple pies and puddings, went down not quite so easy, but on my part with no reluctance the object considered; we have just got a ld* of E. Indian sugar from LOndon at the price of 115 Stg.%, a noble price, yet it sold next day at 148---but we must take Cousin Calibs method in apples. Sugar must cost our family no more than usual.the subject of the Slave Trade will be again brt.before Parliament, with considerable additional advocates for its abolition,but I doubt its obtaining at this time;though I think the cup if iniquity must be near full & probably the longer it is permitted, the greater will the vengance be when it is pour'd out. I sincerely wish it may be presented by a timely abstaining from so horrid a crime,. The Serre Leon Establishment is going forward with a determined step to do what can be done, great expectations of facilitating the object, by the grant made of 20 miles Square by King Naimbanna and his disposition to wish that one of his sons (of 24 years of age) who has sent to Engld.and plac'd him under the care of Granville Sharp for his Education, to abolish the inhuman trafic for men; at the conclusion of the Kings letter to G. Sharp respectg.* his son; he says, "My son, I hope you will take care of him, and let him have his own ways in nothing but what you think right yourself." I have not yet learn'd whether the embarkation of any has yet taken place; I would

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send thee the report of the Court of Directors to the Seirra Leone Comps. if it was not too bulky to send by Post to Havre; but intend order gone from London by the Spring Ships; it appears that this establishment has given some alarm to the Wt. India proprietors, who had laid a plan to render the whole abortive; wch was an intention to purchase more than half the Shares; but happily this combination was discovered before part of it was put in execution, and measures adopted by the Comp., for no proprietors to be admitted but such as were known to be from friends to the cause. three circumstances have occasioned a great number of families to relinquish the use of Wt. Indn.* sugar and some of all sugar; Religion, humanity and inability from the present exorbitant price; such are the exertions of so large a body of the community that I think the downfall of Slavery hath alrady made a great March, and must e're long give way on all sides, may this happy day breake forth through conviction in those so deeply dyed with the blood of those poor victims rather than with the Iron rod now in many instances executed by the oppressed over the oppressor, in all St. Domingo, where such tragic scenes on all sides are exhibited as to make nature revolt at the recital.-I must now return to my subject of business having digressed further than I intended; after adding that about 3 or 4000 troops are sent from this kingdom to quell the insurrection, which I beleive of little use.

Since writing the foregoing, I hear Beef has arisen to 8 sous, by reason a great quantity comes out of the Emperors dominions where the assignate when passed must meet the full loss of Exchange we calculate by thy account 170 Bs. Beef and 20 Bs. pork from America; if our vessells all return well, I mean the Hope, Penelope, Canton and new Ship, and we should purchase two, wch. will make six to provide for before the whole sails we shall want 100 Bs. Beef more, which if thou could provide and send here if any vessel coming this way timely, to get it here by the middle of the 4th mh., — it would be best;however, there is too little prospect I beleive to attempt it; after the vessells* sails that we expect to fit out the ensueing spring

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we shall have no call probably for twelve months. We fully approve thy purchases of the Brig Sampson and the New Hull for the Sally materials (though in other circumstances too small) as well as thy sendg. men after live Oak and Cedar; nor does there need any appologys* among us, as we all mean to act in our distant situations upon one principle, that is, the general benefit. Thou will find by some of my letters that I wish every attention to be paid to seasoning the timber of the new Ship, she will be large and costly, I have already desired, she may be ~~sett~~* set up with as much timber as can be plac'd upon her, and to stand twelve months without a plank on her, the streaks mark'd out on the timbers and the holes board long fore plank,— this will be a novelty, I suppose, but I know it can be done and the Carpenter must be paid for it, as likewise for any loss in the planks; get 2 or 3000 feet more of out board planks than the vesell* will take, which may prevent a loss in ~~whis~~ width and length by boarding before hand, giving oppty for the timbers seasoning, will also give more time to provide the best of planks, both of oak and pine; I ~~also~~ hope thou'll get the live Oak transoms, as well as the top, Apron, etc. I wish the vessell to be set up as soon as may be and plac'd on her as can be to season, and the rest hew'd out and put to seasoning. I am sorry we advised to the doubling any of our vessells, as we dispair ever getting men to go to Greenland and am glad the Canton is not detained for that purpose. We have made additional insurance on the Penelope and Hope ~~L~~ 4000 Stg. now on each. I have not wrote Becky Dean, but wish thee to pursue my intention of the ~~L~~ 100, desire thou would write her on the subject but injoin her not to let her br.* know it, as I shall not write her except I enclose it to the open. We have another long acct* from DeBauques but no duplicate, Shall send it in the spring. Jed Fitch acct* will be settled here by an order from him, thou says you have 1640 livers* on books paid him by De. B's. we have only L200 wch corresponds with the amt* thou sent here, and the several other items and Charges.- take the whole acct*, viz; cask of De. B's 960--inbond 84-1788-7th mo. 15th. cask of De.B's.

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240--L-1284-- Interest on d. 9 hogs*.- 3 mo. 9 cash paid his bill to Wm. Fitch 250--268, amt.* of his voige*with Bl. ½@ 20th ½ @ 30th.--2188. 19- Baila.* wch* will be ~~p'd~~ p'd* here-- Livers* 636.19---- Micajah Gardner Ameziah, Paul Ray Obed Fitch with W. Conn, W. Lowden, Jms. Philips, B.Bennett Jms Barry, I Bourgous are all settled with here and their accts.* must be ballanc'd in our Books there, and not put in the Inventory, Benj. examins the Cash part of D. B's acct.- and we both attend to the other parts, as thou observes their great regularity leave us without much doubt of errors; have not had time yet to enquire into the L-100 Stg.,but shall do it. I shall make the necessary enquiry in Spain respectg* the oil, I note the quy* (quantity) of oil taken at Nantucket so far as had arriv'd, among which is little Sperm, this I suppose has been the cause of head getting so high, per*-haps to the folly of bidding on each other. please keep me advised of the quy* when the rest arrive. Brother Frs.*has lately ordered 10,000 Livers into my hands, if we understand ~~the~~ his letter right, wch.* is not quite so intelligible as we wish. if it is so, shall balle* our compy.* acct* first & take the rest to my acct.* I am glad to find by Wms. letter, he had reced* L-600, drn. of Fleming, hope he has paid the remaining part of L-1000 Stg. which I was desirious Wm. and ~~Thos~~ Thos* should make use of, if we could do without it.- I have been desirious Thos should draw for the L-500 Stg. either on London or in Livers, now I wish he could avoid drawing on London, as I had rather the money there in these perilous time should remain untill it can be placed to advantage on Interest in America if the General Goverment hire money at 6%, perhaps that would be as safe as any where, let me know particulars as soon as thou can; but for own necessity thou must draw in Sterling if money cannot be collected in Livers, so as not to put any person of where money is due, which I have never been accustomed to do; the half payment for the new Ship must be punctual when due. Have at last the Sales of the 18 Cas.- of oil pr.* the Penelope in wch* Wm. is interested and a miserable sale it is, Net proceeds 879-11-3, on wch thou may make the settlement of that

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affair his 3/16 of Lydias voiges* shall be plac'd to his acct** with DeBauques, they are not yet settled, the remains of the Bone having been sold only in the 9th mo. last. Dianna is settled here as Thos. Swain can inform thee. The Mary's account shall be drawn and sent Wm. as soon as we can.the Staves I advised thee to engage E. Bunker to procure were intended for new Ships but the villain of a Parks renders it unnecessary to engage them at present, yet let them be procured a year before they are ship'd that they may be well season'd; I suppose the benefir of the Lydia's hands will go to the Ships acct.thy supplies must be continued to Jno. Worth, Clothier Allen and Frs. Folger,and probably some others that I do not think of, ~~*****~~ wch* I now recollect, Manter and Wm. Brock but the conditions must be to have our Money replac'd in America without a loss. Ezekl Glovers balle* is 643.2.9 due here what is advanc'd on the Hopes and Cantons last voige must allow us 20% on our advances at Nantucket as those voiges never came to our acct.* untill 9th mo. when exch~~***~~ on London wch we remitted out of these voiges was#32, which is 25%--deduct 5%proffit* on Bills on London leaves 20 for them to pay. The following are several ballances* due here-which I have already transmitted thee, viz:

Wm. Brock for his Boy----------577.9.9 Livers*

Church Clark-I remitted the amt.- of his Balance, but have it not before me now. —

C. -Gardner, without deducting or meddling with G. Lawrence 100 Dollars and our Nantucket acct.*

Amt- of all Calvins voiges #2225.6.2 advanced him here 1005.18.4 including 23 F. Gardner pd.* him.--Balance 1219.7.10 of which 867.17 is his last voige with Coffin Whippey on wch* 20% must be deducted if we pay the Balle to G. L. in America.--

N.B. in the above calculation, our acct* of L-29.0.10 lmd.* and G.L. ~~1~~ 30-includg them will over bale Crispies account a little and will stand this.

Balance due to C. G. in Dunkirk---------~~1818.11~~ 1219.7.10 deduct 20% on 867.7.17(or let him draw for it) 173.11

our Nantucket account 29.0.10

G.L. L-30 is ~~53.6.8~~* 59.0.10--18 1062.15

1236.6

is so--due to W.R. 16.18.2

I note Bartlet Charges and shall say more about them when I have time, he is villian enh.* to do anything, I suppose we never made him our factor to purchase wine and oil,or employed him to make sails,this probably was ~~onboard~~ onbd.* the Ship at our Expence. Two Friends is sold as I wrote thee before for L-300 Stg. no rumours of War here between the U.S. and Spain,they came in an American paper many months ago wch. was the first and last of it. I think the Sperm Manu. at New York can hardly bear the high price of head with the additional charges but doubtless is put forwd* by B.F. whose end it may answer better than the principals;the price thou quotes is more with charges than our costs us here in assignats and our return of the Oils must be far preferrable to theirs. I am much pleased with the decission of the Slave Case in Taunton, it has been promulgated by Benj, here to some advantage.

Sheet 3.— S.R. 1st. mo.25,92.

A Speculation in Bone would have answered as also of Sperm oils, but is too dangerous now to meddle with either,therefore wish thee to avoid both; the Sperm Fishery if the vessells* arrive safe will be overdone at this Market; the consumption encreases, but not equal to the increase of that part of the Fishery and the importations from America. the Marias oil is almost all sold; Sperm at 54--12 or 13000 Stoops of whale at 33 the remainder at 36 Bone held at 36 but whither it will oblain* is uncertain. We have not yet settled J. Whippey's acct- there seems to be some complicated matters respecting hands, but hope to get through it ere he sails; if I understand t

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thee right, we may ept*(expect) him with the last supplies charg'd, as being deducted out of the L-50 Bill drawn by his wife. as I wrote thee before, I desire we may have no more appretices nor minors under our care, as we find not only a great deal of trouble but a disadvantage, (B. Clarks son, I except, as he will be put to his father when they meet) Thy first acct. of Brother Brown's illness and probability of a long confinement was alarming, but am glad to find toward the conclusion of thy letter he was out again. I have heretofore desired thee to keep him in pay,as he sounded distressed when he wrote me, least he should be left destitute, concluding we should have no need of him. do remember to ler Claghorn use the Copper bolts left of the Hope, (in W. House third story) in the Splices of the Keel, so far as necessary, if any are left use them in the floor timber, as we shall Copper the Vesell, shall send out in time Bolts and Spikes of that Metal, the addition in the Stern Port and Stern can be put in at any time before launching. we have just got an Inventory from Havre ~~&c~~ of 2 Ships for Sale of abt- 250 and 320 tuns 7 and 10 years old. They ask 35 and 42,00 Livers hope to get them for about 30 and 38. if they are good, will not be very high at the present rate of Exchange. Acct of Sales of the Falkland voige is just come in. Net proceeds 54910.7 to D.B!s. debt but we deduct 99.7 paid by us for discharging the Ship, 206 for rmd.pr. on amt. of head pr. Mr. 15180-303-12403-19 leaves 54507.8, all will* be paid off here except the boy Jack, whether any supplies have been advanced to Com. Manlander or not, we cannot tell, we do not find him in thy list. I note with pleasure thy ~~account~~ account of our dear frds.*M.R.& I.Watson, with the testimonys they have given thee of their remembrances, I only say as I have heretofore said; that I rejoice in the oppurtunity you have had in their compy. and wish it had then continued for some time longer; I find by a letter from R. Jones they were in the neighborhood of Philada* when she wrote, if they should be in America when this reaches thee, & thou should write them,pray communicate our dear love to them, though unknown, I feel such an attachment to them, that I wish

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to have an oppy* of personal acquantance with them, which if my life should be continued, I hope will ~~be~~ be the case, I feel at times a sympathy with them in their exercising travels through our land; was it not the blessed reward annex'd to the discharge of duty, many would no doubt faint by the way. Thy acct- of Thos's child being sick but better, was succeeded the next morning by letters both from Wm.and Thos* of its dissolution the account was affecting to us, but to me more from the extreme agonies it suffered, than from its removal; I am glad to find Thos* and Charity were favoured with so much fortitude and resignation in so trying a circumstance, in which I trust they will find peace;I intend writting* them ere long. The amt* of the Widdow Gardner's, John Latens voige in the Falkld~~*~~ after deductg* his supplies of Cloaths from O.P and hospl. mde.* is 440-1-2, which thou may acct.* with her for after deductg* 35% for the ~~exchan~~* exche* of money the least it is done for is 34 to 36- I take the lowest with gte*(guarantee) insurance, we have allow'd him 1/100 when we could have got such a ltd*. at 10% pm*. If any higher lay was agreed for than 1/100, she must have it, if not let it stand at this. I am with the usual united love of our family, to thee, dear Elizh.* with the childn*, our near relatives & friends, both at Nantucket ~~and Newport~~, Bedford and Newport,

Thy affectionate Father, ~~Wm~~*

Wm. Rotch.

I fear I shall not have time to write Wm. or Ths.* by this oppt*, Capt. Chapman from Havre for Boston-~~I~~ I wish thou would procure 1 or 200 good large and mdg. Ships Knees and a few Caboose knees and have them ready to send whenever we have a vesell comg~~*~~ here, we often want them and give ~~*~~ very high for them; if we sell them they will admit a good proffit*.

#2p1

Dunkirk, 1st mh., 1792.

Dear Son Samuel Rodman,

I wrote thee the 25th Inst. via Havre to go by Capn.*Chapman for Boston, but am not certain that it will reach him timely, therefore shall make a short repitition, merely by way of ment* in answer to thine of the 10th mh-. 3d pr. Capn*. Maxfield, who arrived the 10th Inst.(passage 45 days) his Oils was previously sold at 80 livers* pr. Ct.which is a good price for us, as we want to lay out the money here for what we have on bd. (am glad thou shipd* it & so far as we can lay out the money here could wish it had been a larger Qut*; but no further speculations do I wish at present untill the Government is better settled,) but bad for Wm. so far as he draws Stg.* Bills, Exche*. being now 40-10 here it has been 42. Suppose much the same at Havre. as we want to purchase 2 Ships for G F and O P in lue of Maria and Falkland, we shall want all our money of their two voiges and a pt*. of the Hopes when she arrives with the oil fm*. Maxfield, to answer that purpose with the outfit of Six vessells* & Insure*, vizt: Canton, New ship of Bester, 2 now to be purchas'd, Hope & Penelope if they arrive safe. all which we are now making provission* for, say Beef & Pork, (first deducting 170 Beef & 20 of Porke* from America) Bread & Flour, they have as yet risen but little in proportion to the fall of the money-- I now come to my ment*** of answers. we fully approve of thy purchase of Sampsons Brig; sendg*the men to Cut live Oak and Cedar; purchasing the Hull of Bester to take up the Sallys materials, but in other circumstances too small, she will be a cheap vessell* & when the payments are due,thou must draw in Sterling if Anthonys cannot sell livers*, but hope they will be able to furnish thee in that line as I am very unwilling to draw Sterg*, but let no person be put off when time of payment comes. am sorry I have press'd Thos. to draw for £-500 Stg. the exche*. is so bad, but to let him have it when can be raisd* by Livers*, if he had not done it desire him not to do it; at present, but he must be furnishd* out of his profits in our generale* stocke* for his Expences etc. say £-500. Lmt.pt.of the money

m

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my Brother order'd by Flemg*. I find by Wm. is paid, say £-600 Lmd, hope the remaining part to make up £-1000 Stg. is also recd*. before now; this sum of a Thousd* Stg. I intended Wm. & Thos* should make use of-if the whole is paid & thou cannot do without a part, & no inconvenience to them may take some, but hope thou'll* get a supply frm* Anthonys-- I have wrote them & countermanded the circulating 50,000 livers*, least a change of Currency should take place & make a loss rather than a profit; whether the last 50,000 they drew was on that plan or for thy use I cannot fully understand by their letter, nor is it material which way it goes,if remitted in Sterg*.- it will turn to good acct*. & if for thy use will be equally so-- notwithstanding I have countermanded the above mentiond* circulating plan, yet at the Same time, I directed them to draw & sell as soon as they could 30,000 & purchase us a good second hand vessell* fm* 240 to 300 Tuns & 20,000 for thy use when both or either could be done at 12½ pr. Ct.* including their comms*.-- I shall now write them still to draw the whole 50,000 for thy use; but to omit purchasing the vessell* for the present, as I think under the circumstances of the Isld. of St. Domingo vessell will be sold cheaper in this Country than they will be bot* in America; I desire thou would also write them to put off the purchase untill our further directions, but continue to draw in livers* (only) with such variations as thou may think proper as to the loss I mean,, for I wish them to draw the whole sum if oppty* presents. I am glad thou did not detain the Canton for doubling, as we find it almost impossible to get men to go to Greenland; we are now lookg for her, & shall expect the new ship by the last of next mh. I shall in future advise thee of the prices here of such articles as we send for to America, that can be furnishd* here; Beef will generally do frm* America as it is in common the same price here as pork, & now dearer, as much comes frm* the Emperors Dominions where the force of the Exche* is felt, but pork here is excellent, we have agreed for all we want I believe at 6¾ Sous pr am glad the Essence of Spruce, get the other 3 Bbls. wch* will be enh* when thou ships it call it by some unintlligible

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#2p3

name as we wish to get something upon it.-thou must keep a good Stock of Boat Boards ready for any vessell* we may have coming here,with good stems and * knees. I would have thee omit purchasing a Hull for the Marias Sails and Riggen* while she lays for repairs, as we shall not want one. I have mentioned repeatedly that the Penelope had 750 bbls.Sperm oile* when the Falkland left the Coast of Peru.(7th mo. 23d,) & the Mary 100 Bbls.,- 5 weeks before.

Take all the time that is necessary for the New Ship to be seasond* in the best and amplest manner; and put live Oak & Cedar wherever necessary to make her one of the best of vessells* let the Splices of her keele* be fastend* with Copper Bolts of wch* we have some left of the Hope. I have not wrote Becky D., but desire thou would do it & let her know our intention, inpressing her to keep it in her own breast. we have another long acct* frm* DeBauques but no duplicate, among other things is the little misserable Sale of the 18 casks of oile* pr. the Penelope net proceeds 879-11-3.--The Lydia's accts* will be arrang'd here & Wm's 3/16 plac'd to his acct* with DeBauques, I suppose the benifit on the hand will go to the vessell* The Dianna is settl'd here wch T.S. will inform thee. Staves of E. Bunker may be omitted, untill one yr*** before the New Ship is compleated, as they ought to have that time at least to Season.- our Coopers now want some Barrel Staves we had a quty* at Bedford well season'd when I came away which I hope will come in one of other of the vessells this winter. _ I have lately rec'd near Nine Thousand Livers frm bror Francis, wch at the Exche of 41 is about 222 pounds Stg. The 10,000 he borrowed of Benjn was allpd long since as I wrote thee sometime ago. His U. States, Young Sheffield was Cast away going out of the Harbour all fitted for Whaling, she was insured & the Insurance paid.- he then bot three Brigs I believe none large. Sheffield (Young) is in one, Parker, who was mr of the Dauphin in another, Frank Baxter in the third; the Dauphin lays by for the present. The list of accts thou sent me of the Men that were in the Maria Bartlett Coffin Mr first voige are all settled & paid in full here except Jed Fitch to whom by our acct there is due 636-19-3 & will be paid here for which he has left

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orders, but thou says, he ~~stands~~* stands Charg'd with $1640 pd.* by DeBauques — our acct* here, & thine in the Booke thou sent frm* Nantucket is but 1200--his acct* acct* here stands thus;-- vizt*

1787 Cash of D.B's. 960 Int* on stg* 84 ---------- 1044
1788
7 mo 15 Cash pr* D. B's 240 Int. 9--hosp. mts. 9--- 258
Cash pd* his order to W. Fitch.---------- 250
1552

1789 By his voige in the Maria, B.C. master
½ ~~of~~ of 1/20 & ½ of 1/30 ----------2488-19-3

due to I.F. Which will be paid here --------Livers*-636-19-3

therefore all those accts* must be ballanc'd in our Nantucket Books-- I wrote thee long since that A. Fitch's acct* of ~~L~~-49-6-8 is wrong thou must pay her that sum which we stopd* out of Georges voige, therefore thou must deduct 6% the Exchange of money when we stopd* it, & 1½% Insure* & poundage is 7½% it belongs to Anna & not to George as Obed informs me. I have already sent thee the State of Crispus Gardner's Church Clarke, Wm. Brock, & E. Glovers their accts.*-- I wish to know whether their is any prohibition, or any higher import on oile* head mer* (matter) & Sperm Candles than 5%, pray inform me by first oppty* in the first impost act there was no exception; this being unenumerated articles were subject only to 5% but what has taken place since I cannot tell, I am not certain that we could not make a Shipment of the foots of oil to some advantage if not more than 5% duty if the paper medium stands and the loss continues. I intended to have enlarg'd considerably, on other matters not relative to business, of which I am often wearied, but knowing communications of this kind in our present state are necessary, I submit to it with a degree of cheerfulness, but what is most perplexing is to keep watch of the wretched paper money, to avoid loss from that Quarter, I have reason to be glad of my invariable resolution to get what surplus of money we had into Engd*, as soon as I would untill it got to $32. We have now Six Thousd** there; I say, I intended to have enlargd*, but was interrupted not disagreeably, by a sensible valuable Young man from the I.° of Finance who is our frequent visiter; who has left the Religion he was Educated

[30 Jan 1792] #2 p5

in, acknowledgeing to the truth in many respects and I hope will see through somethings that yet seem to remain veild, & I believe is consistent with Divine Wisdom that it should be so.— Being late in the Evening, & the last Port for the Packet going out tomorrow morng, must conclude. & am, with united love to you all,

Thy Affe* Father,

Wm. Rotch.

31 st. 8 in the morning. it is with satisfaction I may inform thee of the safe arrivale* of the Canton in the Roads, last eveng.* 38 days passage all well, hope she will be in harbour this eveng*; we have not got the letters so that we can make no reply.— I wrote to Londn.* four days ago for ~~L~~ 1200 Stg. Insure* on her and cargo.— have this morning countermanded it, but expect it will be too late to save it. ——

As I have not time to write Wm. & there may be some things he may wish to know I shall direct this to him, that he may peruse it & then forward it to thee.

I am ut Ante-----WR.

Dear Wm.

I wrote thee the 25th Int^S* via Havre to go pr Capn* Chapman for Boston & have not time to say more now, than that I have desird* Hornbergs if the money should make another run down (as it has a little risen lately) to remit thine to London in sterg* Bills (not on Paris) to answer thy drafts, as they come to hand. (In great haste) after perusal of Samels letter, please forward it to him—

Thy affe* father

WR

[c 11 Feb 1792]

LETTER FROM WM. ROTCH
2nd. mo., IIth, 1792.
ACKNOWLEDGED.

WILLIAM ROTCH, JR.
MERCHANT,
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

? addressed to Rodman

Dunkirk, 2nd. mo. IIth, I792.

Dear Son Samuele Rodman,

I wrote thee the 25th ult. to go c/o Captn Chapman for Boston and 30th to 31st to go c/o N. Yorke Packet, since which I am favourd with thine of II mth 30 (short) via N Yke and I2th mth 2nd to IOth. c/o the Canton, thy communications are truly acceptable, & I shall endeavour to make the necessary answer, with such intelligence as occurs. - I am much pleas'd thou hast sent us & art sendg us so much Beef say I35 Bs. c/o Canton and 90 intended by the Ospera, Thy articles must be attended to next fall if we continue the Fishery, Porke as I before wrote thee can be procur'd here to advantage, under the present state of the assignats - we have agreed for all we want for 6 vessells at $6\frac{3}{4}$ Sous in paper wch is not more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ Stg in reale money. shall be glad of the 3 Bs. E. of Zpuce which will be enh; ship them by some fictitious name. I am glad thou tooke the Beef sent c/o Perkins, wch. justice seem'd to demand, if it was good. - we have Pitch enh by the Canton but want abt. 30 Bls. more Tar next year. the Boat Boards, poles, and Stearg Oars are needed; the Harpoons just in good time also, more harpoons for another year must be providd as also Boat Boards Stems & knees, timber& etc. - the Oile c/o Maxfield came just right for us to make a good advantage in laying it out here, if there had been more it would have been equally so - but this need not prompt thee to any speculation further than Mexican oile that can be straind to admantage; as the Crisis of the stand or falling of this Constitution is probably at hand; therefore of time that requires caution. I do not wonder that the Kings acceptance of the Constitution was attended with pleasing sensations to you; it had the like affect on us; but they were soon alloy'd by the preparations for an attacke upon this Kingdom by the ex Princes, nobles & Clergy, aillied openly or secretly by almost all the Powers of Europe, Regions & civie liberty being poisenous to Despots; an attack I believe will be made in the Spring; time will determine the event; the present encouragement in the fishery from the advanc'd price of oil and Bone which is really advantageous so far as the money can be appropriated to the produce of this Kingdom, determines us to keep steadily on & keep our Interest all Insur'd in Engd. untill an alteration in the Government more favourable. we have just purchased a Ship at Havre for O Fitch of

about 250 to 80

Z11 Feb 1792

#3 p2

about 250 to 80 Tuns for 29,250 livers. she will when fitted for sea cost perhaps £5,000. (the vessell only compleat for whaling) as she must be new Sheathd, some other Carpenters work, a new Suit of larger Sails, Cable etc. she is good & Sound 7 ys.old & well calculated for the fishery, built with fine timber at Havre, if she does not exceed 45 will be very cheap 50 will be cheap excche is about 42 - we are looking out for another at the Same place for O Paddacks, these two to replace the Maria & Falkland & use up assignats, as it has got too bad to remit to London. we have now about 60,000 due for Bounties, the decree not yet pass'd, but the money ready for payment; if the Hope should come in full, I thinks, with what we have; added to that voige would purchase the two Ships, & fit the whole 6 out compleatly & Insure them, with a little more aid, though I hope that will not be wanting; if the Penelope comes in safe, perhaps her earnings may be appropriated to some speculations here to lay by.- I have just recd. a Bill of LI975.13.6 Stg frm Anthonys for the 50,000 livers,drawn by Saml Ward & Brothers on Lane Son & Frasier at 90 ds. I have sent it for acceptance, if its paid which I have no doubt of, it will be a fine proffit,of more than 30,000 livers the Bill being now worth more than 80, & the 50 not due untill the 22d Int.;but I have countermanded any more being done on that plan, least an alteration in the Currency should take place & a loss should ensue;but have desirdthem to sell 50,000 more if the can do it at I2½ loss & purchase a vessell with pt, & a part for thy use, but as we can purchase vessells in this Country on better terms, thou may countermand that part respectg the purchase of a vessell, having them to draw for as much as those may want at a greater loss than my limits, indeed 6/ P Curt. for 5 livers is better than any way we can remit; notwithstandg they do not expect to be able to sell any more hardly at any rate, yets its possible another oppty. may present; therefore let them be prepar'd. - if thou cannot be supplied by Livers for what we may owe thou must then draw in Stg for absolute necessity, so as to put no man off when money is due. I observe thy arrangement with Anthonys which I fully approve, they are not ungenerous. thou may continue supplies to such as are in our vessells as I have mentiond before, Crispus may be among the number, as I have wrote thee; Lawrences I

[11 Feb 1792]
[11 Feb 1792]

#3 p3

among the number, as I have wrote thee; Lawrences 100 Dolls. may now be accounted &settled, he has one Son with Isaiah Hussey, & one in the Penelope, though none other in our emply, yet by virtue of his power (though I suppose good for nothing in effect) I can probably secure most of their voige. but thou had best always send the acct. of all the supplies to us from time to time to settle here, when we can always have our just due in the loss of the money; Comt Morslanders debt is paid say £26.12.7 at the exche. of money here. Z Morslanders is settled & pd to David Swain our acct. first deducted which thou may balle. - pray let us know where thou got the 3 sum pd. by B Bs to Ted Fitch of £ 480 which is not charg'd him in Benjm. Books. - Ezhe. Gddver not in our employ, if the Balce. I sent thee due to him will not balce. his mothers acct. with 25% added for the loss of money let me know it & I can renew it here Revn Gardner has a balce of about 700 livers in DeBuaques hands waiting for legal authority & orders to pay it C Whippey sum of 3.18.4 we shall looke into. his acct. settled for Nantucket here stands thus vizt. -

Amt of Cash & Sunds. to his wife	56.3----------	56.3
Intoan £12 - 1 mo 90 - 1 yr. 5 mo 20 ds	----------	o.17.9
d - int 12 - to 1 mo 90--16/ ds on £ 30 to 1 mo 90 17/11	-------- ----------	1.13.11
		2.11.8
To Cash advanc'd his wife since the above	32.6.w.Lnd	32. 6.20
	Lnd	£91.1. 6
# #		
91.1.6 dmo at 18 @ 2%----1639.7---		

There are severale parts of thy letter, that I must leave unanswered as I wish to close this, this evening for Havre to go by way of New York the Iron pots are preparing for the Spring Ship. - Stoves are very Scarse here - we must have a load by next fall Barrels as well as Lt. are wanted by our Coopers. - I intend writing thee again by the London Spring Ships. we are all favour'd with health at present except Colds which affects severale of the family but Benjs. little childmost,which is somewhat poorly. - I will now just touch on the encroachment, though deserving of the steps thou hast taken yet had much rather thou had omitted it as I exceedingly dislike any thing of the Intensted matters should be brought. to that tribunal, I intend writing him on the subject inclosed and open to thee; if not enterd upon in a Society capacity wish thou would drop it for the present. Exchange worse and worse. - I am with

[11 Feb 1792] #3p4

the united love of the Family to thee dear Elizh. (whose thrice acceptable letter c/o the Canton I recd. & intend writing her as soon as I can) the Childn. our Relatives Friends - Thy affe. father . WmRotch

[18 Feb 1792]

LETTER FROM WM. ROTCH
DUNKIRK, 2nd MO. 18th 1792

Dunkirk 2nd mo. I8th I792

Dear Son Samuele Rodman

I wrote thee the 25th ult. to go c/o Capt. Chapman fm. Havre for Boston - 30 to 31 c/o New York Packet 11th Inst to go c/o Capn Maxfield, & 16 to go by Chapman or Maxfield, by the 2nd & 3d thou'll find the Canton safe arrivale; the last was only to inform thee of the arrivale of David Starbuck fm the Coast of Peru with 550 Barls. Sperm oile, (brings no acct so late as the Falkland, having left the Coast before her), - and also of the great Riot that took place here on the third day last the I4th Inst. in which the front windows of 7.9. or 11 houses (whch number I cannot yet ascertain) with the furniture & other property wch fell in their way was destroy'd; they had most of the day unmolested, but in the afternoon, the Arm'd force was called out by the Magistrates, the Red flag display'd, & Martiale Law proclaimd, under which the Town still remains; orders were given to fire on the Mob wherever they should be found, and on any collection of people that had the least appearance of a Mob; these orders in a few instances have been put in practice in which some few have been killd and others wounded; about 500 foot & horse came into town, nest morng from adjacent Towns, that a large arm'd force is now here which in the whole I apprehend does not amount to less than 5000, large Patrols night & day have been kept up since, & will probably be continued untill the Masquerade time is over, which is forbidden by the Magistrates, but whether will be generally obey'd is yet undetermin&d; tomorrow will be the usuale time for its b'ginning; this affray tooke place first on some dealers in Corn for exportation wch was said to be prejudiciale to the poor; but like all other such like assemblages their first object was soon lost, and pretence seem'd their purpose; we have been very quiet since the matter tooke place; all the Houses are order'd to illuminated, with which we with others readily comply, although we cannot do it in times of public rejoicing; thou may readily believe it has been a time of great trial, but through Divine Favour we are yet preserv'd from suffering; we find many were to be the victims of this fury, any distant affront to any of the individuals was now sufficient to market their persons & property for distruction; among these was our

[18 Feb 1792] #4 p 2

Cousin Fran. Macy who was threatned by a Sailor that had been with him some Years ago, that his property should be destroyd before morning; but the Magistrates perceiving it, I have heard they set a Guard to his house & all remain'd quiet, but have not seen him since to know the particulars; - I little expected ever to be in the midst of another Revolution after that of America was compleated, but here we are, and I am glad at present under every circumstance that we are here, though what our sufferings may be is hid from our eyes; if things should continue in this agitated state, & the Government too weak to prevent lawless intrusion, I hope we shall have oppty. to shift our quarters to some place of tranquility. I wish thou would inform Jn Elkins that Betsy Locke is here waiting to go with Moores to America when any oppt. presents wch. is uncertain; but she appears to be in the last stage of a consumption; we never expect she will reach America, & doubt her ever living even to embarke, that I wish her relatives may make no dependance of seeing her in that part of the world. we have lately recd. fm I Anthony & Son a Bill at 3months on Lane & Co of £ 1975.13.6 Stg. for the 50,000, (which will be due about the 2nd of next mth. includg the customa'y days of grace as they are called) before any change of Currency takes place, it will be a noble Speculation; the livers are already provided at Paris to pay it. I have already wrote thee on this subject, & that I had desird them (Anthonys) to draw no more on a circulating plan, least a charge of Currency should take place, & make a loss rather than profit, yet have desird them still to draw 50 Thousd.more if at a loss of not more than 12½ loss (wch. I thinke may be extended 15 -) & purchase a second hand vessell with part, & appropriate the remr. to thy use; I now wish they would still sell the livers if they can, all for thy use, & omit purchasing the vessell, as I thinke we can supply ourselves in this Kingdom at a better rate, as the stagnation of the Wt. Inds. trade will probably throw many ships on the Market; we have already bot. one for O Fitch at Havre of about 250 Tuns measurement calld.there 300 Tuns burthen; for # 29,250- a very good purchase; we think she will cost us 45,000, when compleated as a vessell (only) fit for the fishery, is 7 yrs. old & very sound.& will at that be very cheap being but little more than £ 1000. Stg.

[18 Feb 1792] #4 p3

we are in quest of another at the same place for O Paddock;these two are to be in lue of the Maria & Falkland, the first wantg repairs, the last too small for the fishery, hope we shall be able to sell her here. all these things I have already wrote thee, wch. will be the case of what I shall still write, least the others should miscarry.- Our Bounties are not yet paidx # say 60,000. would have thee omit any further Speculations for this market at present, what oil hou hast on hand send, as we can make a considerable sum answer in our purchases in this Country, but no more remittance to Engd. it being now Here # 42 - so much as I am averse to a paper medium, yet if we had a surplus of money I would keep it in assignats, rather than purchase exche. at this high rate; I expect there will be great Speculations in the Paper of this Kingdom, in Engd, Benj. recd. intelligence last night from one person who proposed orderg him to purchase to the value of Twenty Thousand pounds Stg., & another for three Thousd. some little time past, if he could advise them to the measure, they were sanguine in their own minds that even a Counter Revolution would still support the Cst of this paper. - this Spring I apprehend will bring the public affairs of this Kingdom to a crisis, & I ardently wish it may terminate in peace, but fear it will be otherwise. I observe the demand made by T Fitches executors for the pt. of Stripes L 6 L nd in Silver; my wife remembers havg it, but no further; I suppose it is pd for, but as we cannot make it appear, I desire thou would pay it; thou may observe we have overrated the amount of the Chacolot which I calculated to balce the account., which may be deducted. - when the payments become due for the New Ship draw for Sterling, if thou cannot be supplied any other way, as also for all other demands, so as not to keep people out of their money. - Conl Morslanders acct. is pad us here say L 26 - odd Lnd. with the loss on the paper. he is to go with O Paddock again. Thou may continue to supply Crispus moderately & acct. with Lawrence for the 100 Dolls, he has a Son in the Penelope, & one with Isaiah Hussey, shall do the best I can for him agreeable to his power. I have already desir'd thee in severale letters to omit providing a Hull for the Marias sails & Riggen while she was repairing. - the New Ship may stand as long as is necessary to Season. - Nt. proceeds of I. Austins oil & Bone sent her c/o Falklad, or S. Jones is # 784.16.16 which please to pay him deductg 15% for the

[18 Feb 1792] #4 p4

Exchange on money at the time of Sale Ezh. Glovers balle. due out of the Hopes voige
of 643.2.9 as I wrote thee which I find is not near enh. to balle. his Mothers acct
of L 46 - od- shall take the balle. out of Maria's voige though we have pd. it to
Gorham Hussey. I duly observe what thou mentions respecting the regulation of funerals
&c which I have long wishd for & am glad it is likely to be accomplished & reduc'd
to Christian decorum. The two preparative meetings I must leave thou to see the utility
of that can see, as also the buildg another Meeting House, all that I can say on these
two subjects is, that I wish every addition or alteration to be made that can conduce
to the revivale of truth among us; One thing I have been long convinc'd of; and that is;
if the Meeting House could be remov'd to the Lot of D C's as once proposed; I believe
it would be of reale advantage in encourageing many to get out to Meeting who are
unable to reach it where it now stands, and would be a means of many others attending
who might only make the distance & the disagreeableness of passing the bleak hill in
winter a pretext for their omission; as to my subscription, thy Ideas are just in
respect to my attachment being much wean'd from the Island, though a part of the In-
habitants I sincerely love, and the whole mass I feel a regard for, as a Christian
duty, and desire I may ever contribute to their welfare when in my power; these considera-
tions do not appear sufficient to induce me to do so much, as I once might have been
willg to have done; nevertheless when I am favour'd to feel a little of the coverg.
of that Universale love which reaches over Sea & land to the whole human Race, I feele
a willingness to contribute my mite in any manner, to Nations Kinderd, tongues, &
people, the world over, for the promotion of the cause of Righteousness in the earth;
under this consideration, I am still willing to subscribe One hundred pounds Lnd.
toward the removing the Old & buildg the New if concluded on, provided a Sum sufficient
for both is subscribed for before either is undertaken, but if not enh. for both, my
subscription must be wholly confind to the removale of the Old House, but under the
express conditions that the means for fully effectiong it shall be provided; I mean
subscribed for before it is undertaken, so as not to saddle the meeting with any debt
on that acct; nor yet to apply to the Quy. Meetg for any assistance in a pecuniary
way. - thy observations in thine of of 9th of 11th mo. respecting the 3d Subject I
wrote thee about some time since, fully satisfys me that it is best for things to remain

[c 18 Feb 1792] #4p5

as they are; I am sorry that more aconomy does not subsist, but so it is &tc. - I am much pleas'd to hear, thou & our cousin are again on a friendly footing; it has heretofore been afflicting to my mind, but I cound not print out a remedy that I thought would answer fully the Object. - I hope the Potts will be shipd out in the first Spring Ships, I have wrote Birkbeck & Ball timely and pressingly, but we find them very tardy in executing our orders, not for want of punct. pay, but suppose over-done at times with business, I have orderd the large pots 80 Galls. full measure which suppose will be such as are calld 90, & have been at the Expence of moulds for these & the 60 Gs. also, findg those in Some are not so good, this expence will be L 20 Stg. but we hold the exclusive right of the Pots made in them; from this Expence the 80Is must be the same price that we heretofore sold the 100's at the 60's to be at the former price, I have also orderd some 6.7.&8 Gs. Cook pots with a number of very Small ones, 2 qtrs. I believe are enclosed here is Copy of DeBauques acct Current down to the 8th of the 11th mo; I know of noe of the acct. of Sales that are necessary to Copy to make any settlements at Nantucket. I intend also if time to send the Copy of Enderby's account in ballance L 78 since which we have had some transactions which has reduced it. - 20th all quiet except in a few instances of little consequence. we find in the whole about 16 of the mob killed, & a considerable number wounded, a strong armed force deters them. - I have already mentiond in one of my letters, that I was sorry thou had proposed bringing my encroaching neighbour under the notice of our tribunal, not because there is not cause for any enquiry; but I much dislike any interesting matter of mine should command the interposition of Society, therefore I wish thee to let the matter subside for the present; as I intend writg him under cover & open to thee as soon as I can get time. - I do not know that there is any thing to enter any particular person in DeBauques acct. except to cahrge my acct. with the L 1000 drawn for Thos. - thou need not Charge my acct. with the L 60 recd of Enderbeys nor Benjs. with the L60 he recd of thm, as we shall acct for all the Co. effects we have recd. for our own use & send the acct. as soon as I have time, but the late confusion has prevented me from forwardg & writing on severale subjects, whch now must be taken at a more tranquile time. this I intend for London by one of the Spring Ships, Scott or Barnard. it is now eveng & all is quiet; The order against Masquerading has been almost univer-

[18 Feb 1792]

#4 p6

sally obey'd. a few persons excepted, who were minded to insult the law, in that respect t have been safely conducted to prison, where there are also about 70 of the Rioters lodg'd; by which it appears, authority is restoring. I am with endeard love to self & dear Elizh. (to whom I wish I could write in answer to her truly acceptable letter c/o the Canton, but she will excuse me) in wch our family unites (in haste)

Thy affect. father W Rotch

one day more of the usual time masquerading yet to pass but hope it will no more appear than it has this day

[2 Mar 1792]

LETTER FROM WM ROTCH
3 mo. 2. 1792
ACKNOWLEDGED

WILLIAM ROTCH & SONS

NANTUCKET

#5 p1

Dunkirk 3 mo 2nd 1792

Dear Son Samuele Rodman

my last to thee was the 18th to 20th ult. via London since which have recd. none from thee. as I know that after hearing of the late great Riot & distruction of part of severale houses & furniture &ct. in this place you will be anxious to know our situation since that period; we have been intirely quiet ever since; by the Awe of a strong millitary force, and probably shall remain so, as long as the pretended cause ceases; that is the exportation of Corn, but as it is expected that will again take place to supply the wants of the South it is much apprehended that it will be made a second pretext for deastation & plunder; Revolutions from a State of Despotison to liberty, I believe generally has the same effect in all Countries; when that liberty which is the Right of Man is obtaind it commonly is much abused and degenerates for a time into licensiousness;with its frequent production of a leveling principle; which often terminates in plunder. every thing of publicke affairs around us wears a more gloomy aspect Annarchyor War seem in the view of many the alternatives, both dreadfull in their operation; we have thus far been favour'd to remain unmolested, and hope we may be preserv'd with stability & fortitude sufficient for the day, but trials I apprehend will attend. we are all favourd with health at present so far as to be about, Colds are among us but none wholly confind. The Canton will probably be ready to Saile in 4 or 5 days; the PennO Fitch at Havre going on as fast as the unfavourable weather will admit; we shall have all her Carpenter worke done there, water filld in Casks we bout with the Ship, which will forward the business more than to bring her first here; this Ship is a good purchase; & I thinke compleat for Whaling as a Ship she will not stand us in more than 45 or 47000 livers a little more than L 1000 Stg Exch being now here # 45 - we do not yet find another for O Paddock, but are still lookg out. I yesterday recd. the acct. of Sales of the Oile c/o Maxfield frm.Hamburgs nt. proceeds # 24601.15.9 a good price by appropriating the money toward the Penn, but very poor if to be invested in Stg. Bills. - I hope the Ospera will be here soon, that we may get her out before any of the others that we expect in will be ready. we have no acct. of the fishery since my last, indeed not since the Falklands arrivale; D Starbuck as I wrote thee having put away before her. - pray inform Thads.

[2 Mar 1792] #5 p2

Swain that we recd his letter, but cannot give him any advice whether to remove or not; the fishery is better now as to price than I have known it; whale oile very quick at 36pperhaps the next may be 40 Bone 36 - Sperm 3 livers, head 3.10 # & at present in demand; a war I believe we shall have, but I hope not a Marine War, yet all remains uncertain, therefore he must act as he thinks best, the above prices are very good if the produce can be improvd within the Kingdom, but if in Sterling it cuts allmost half the Sume of, but tell him we go on as usuale, intendg to insure all our property as it goes out untill some change for the better in public affairs takes place,I am sorry to tell thee the trypots could not be got ready to go out in the early Ships on acct. of the Moulds not being ready, but have order'd 10.60's & 6 - cast in Sume to be shipd by Capn. Holland for Boston, to saile in about 2 weeks the remainder shall forward as soon as possible after the moulds are finishd which will not be long. - Nt. pds. of Marias voige will be about 85,000 # . - as I intend this c/o Maxfield, have not time add as it must go off this evening. therefore as at all times with love to you all - thy affectionate Father

W Rotch

[c 3 Mar 1792]

TIMOTHY FOLGER ESQ.

MERCHANT

DARTMOUTH, NEAR HALLIFAX

NOVA SCOTIA

Dunkirk 3 mo 3d - 1792 #6p1

Respected Friend
Timothy Folger

As I expect my Cousin Samuele who is now with us, will communicate whatevr is interesting here worth notice, renders it unnecessary for me to enter into any detaile of public matters; the particular subject that induces me to take up my pen at this time, is the case of Obed Husseys heirs, respecting the affairs of Kennebec; in which I find I am calumnized by my enemies at Nantucket, who are endeavouring to improve it to my disadvantage as much as they can, by insinuating that I have got thy farm without compensation, and am robing Hussey's distressed family of their right; they having suffer'd the loss of their property for the deficiency in the payment of R Barker & thee for part of your proportions of the Farm; now although the last is true in itself, yet not as to me, and the other would be true as to me, if I had ever had a secret intention of convertg. a shilling of the property to my own use without an equivalent; but as thou knows; and what is more, my heart knows, it was never my secret thought; I matter little what the tongue of envy can proclaim, or the most malicious hearts suggest respecting my conduct, well knowing that the rectitude of my heart, must be the sure source of a quiet mind, and in that I repose my confidence with respect to the present subject; nevertheless so far as is plac'd in my power to do justice, or assist in procuring it for others, so far I thinke it incumbent on me to exercise that power, in which I have no doubt thou will unite, and would only wish to see where the balance of equity rests, to have it put in execution. now to come to the matter; Hussey's estate has sufferd to a large amount very unjustly; having paid his full proportion in due season; Dr Tupper has also if I do not mistake paid his Quota though not so early as Hussey; the dificiency was therefore almost the whole of R Bs part, and part of thine; whether the two orders on me for £ 80 - each would have compleated thy part or not, I cannot tell; but thou knows the operation of these two orders, and that neither of us were deffecient in their not being discharg'd; yet so it was by the Executor, (Rands) own misconduct it was not done; and by the unaccountable conduct of the I. Court, Hussey has lost his Estate; thus it now stands: and the only expedient for their relief in justice that at present occurs to me is this; R Barkers part of that Estate ought immediately to be appropriated to the benefit of Husseys heirs: if the purchase was on a Joint Tenancy 1/3 of it I suppose is thine, and whether

23 Mar 1792 #6 p2

heirs; if the purchase was on a Joint Tenancy 1/3 of it I suppose is thine, and whether Tupper will submit to this move or not, I would by all means advise thee to have it apprais'd, or otherwise estimated, and give them a conveyance of thy part, taking their security for its value; if it is not a joint tenancy, it rests with the heirs of Barker & Hussey to settle it as they can. - now as thou was deficient on thy own part of the Estate, thy deficiency must be paid with Intrest and a proprotion of Law Charges according to that proportion; I confess it seems hard that thou dhould pay more than simple Intrest, yet compound Intrest hath been recover'd of Hussey when he in fact owed nothing; if this has happend for want of proper attention to the case, yet on whose acct. has it happend? not on Hussey's for himself; but for those who were defecient & for whom he was bound, therefore ought he to suffer for thy just proportion of that defeciency; I cannot concieve that he ought, but perhaps thy better judgment may see it otherwise. I have wrote my Son Rodman to assure Molly Hussey that justice shall be done as far as lays in my power to effect it; in which I have no doubt of thy approbation; therefore if agreeable to thee, I thinke it best to have the farm sold as soon as it can be done for its value, (of which I am quite unacquainted, as well as our just demand on it) and pay out of it what is justly due to Hussey's heirs, for thy proportion of the defeciency & Charges; if your divission of the first purchase was in four equale parts, much more than one half of Husseys sufferings must fall on Barkers part, whether sufficient to pay it or not, as he had paid if I remember only about L 20 - however as to proportions, I must leave that to thee who knows more about it - if thou acquieses with my proposale of the Farm being sold it will be necessary to impower some person in Kennebec to effect the business; I wish thou would write my son Rodman fully on the subject by some safe conveyance; my Son Wm, has my Power sufficient to transact it whn the plannis settled. not recollecting any thing further for thy detention. - I am with respect Thy-

Assured Friend

Wm Rotch

[10 Mar 1792]

LETTER FROM WM. ROTCH
3 mo. 10th.1792
ACKNOWLEDGED

William Rotch Junr

Merchant

New Bedford

#7

Dunkirk 3rd mo 10th 1792

Dear Son Samuele Rodman

I wrote thee the 18th ult c/o Barnard via London & 2nd Inst. c/o Maxfield, who I hear is still detaind, gives me oppty, to hand thee a few lines; though nothing of consequence, except, that we are all favour'd with health & remain quiet at present. Our Iron Potts could not be got ready to go by the first Ships, the moulds not being ready; I have therefore orderd 10-60s and 680's to be cast in moulds & sent c/o a vessell for Boston that is to saile about the middle of this month (the Galen Capt. Holland) the remainder to be forwarded as soon as the moulds are ready. - please to call on Micajah Coffin for 2 - 3 Iron hoops, supplid his son Zenas by G. Gorham Hussey to be at the Stg. Cost & Charges - by agreement; first Cost was 24% shippg Charges the same & to America, frt. about 10/per Tun. Insd 1% - Commis about 72% - no arrivals here from the fishery since David Starbuck, but severale looked for - Stephen Coleman son of Christ. has just got to London, having lost his Ship in Delagoa Bay with 170 Tuns of whale oile sav'd only about 12 Tuns - Isaiah Hussey had 120 Tuns whale last acct. - we are now hoping to see the Ospera soon after the wind changes, it is now Strong to the Eastward; I have orderd L 1000 - Stg insur'd on her. the Canton is ready & will probably sail tomorrow. - Exch. 45 to 46 - In hast I am as at all

Consider both letters as "letter 7" in index

Times thy affe father

Wm Rotch

P.S. I have wrote Tim. Folger fully & pressingly on D Husseys Kennebec affairs & shall send thee a Copy soon

Dear Son Wm.

As I have nothing of consequence to write thee, nor time at present thy perusale of the forgoing, will acquaint thee, that no arrivals from the fishery since my last. apr. of Burr Mill stones goes by Maxfield. to be ded. thee at Bedford, for Cousin Jos. Macy - when an oppty. most convenient to Carroline. at Petersburg in Virginia presents I wish thee to send them & write him - Petersburg is the best place if opp. - (please forward this to Samuele)

Thy affe father W R

#8 p1

Dunkirk 3rd mo. 19.1792

Dear Son Samuel Rodman

My last to thee was the 12th Int. intended c/o Capn. Holland via London. I have now the pleasure to inform thee of the Safe arrival in this Harbour this day, of the Penelope full of Sperm oil about 1200 Barrells; all well, except some being a little touch'd with the Scurvey, but capable of duty; he left the Coast of Peru the 20th of the 10th mo, saw the Mary two days before, but no addition since my last (300 or 320 Barls.) Whippey has been very unsucessfull, and I fear will make a poor voige, he intended putting into the Coast & recruiting his men, & then try a little longer; I wish he may succeed. the Penelope lost all her rudder except 7 feet of the upper end off the Western Isles, but I Worths industry & ingenuity with his crew replac'd it in 4 days (without any aid of the lower part as all went away together) which serv'd to bfing them safe into Port. Prince Coleman left the Coast two months before Worth, but is not yet arriv'd, he intended to put into Rio Janario, which with the Penelopes Copper suppose has made the difference in the Passage; no later accts. of Laban Coffin (370 or 400 Nl.); nor any other of our vessells. - I intend directing this to Wm. which will give him all the information I have, as I have not time to write him. - Rubin Ellis fm. London 90 Tuns Sperm The Lydia touchd at Trinadado the 21 - 1mo all well. - I am thy affe father WR

Dr. Wm. after perusal, please to forward it to Samuel -

Dunkirk 3rd mo 13th 1792

Dear Son Samuel Rodman

I wrote thee the 10th Inst. to go by the Maxfield from Havre; in which I mentiond I had wrote Timothy Folger fully on his of OH's Kennebec affairs; and as I there mentiond; I now enclose thee a Copy of the letter, of which I desire thou would take a Copy and keep, thou may then seal & forward mine to him when oppy. presents, or wait to hear whether mine has reach'd him; it went by this months Packet which touches at Hallifax in the way to New York; if thou hast occasion to send the enclosed let it go by some safe channel; my sending it open renders it unnecessary to say much more on the subject; only some varyation in the mode of Husseys heirs being reimbursed. Folgers proportion of what he was deficient in his own right (without regardg. the joint Tenancy on Barkers part if it was one, that being sufficiently pointed out, I mean my sentiments) that if it will not hurt the Sale of the remaining part, whether it will not be better to set off such part of The Farm by appraisment to H's heirs to the Amt. of deficiency, rather than sell it & pay the money out of the proceeds, this mode of setting off a part, would be safer for me in giving a conveyance; as a quit claim of such part, for the consideration of the sum it amounted to, would answer the necessary purpose, which I should prefer to a Clear deed, as the first would not make me accountable if there should ever appear any defect in F's title, (originally) though I know of nones' but a deed will make me accountable; therefore whatever is done with H's in the case as to one, let it be by a Quit claim; when the Estate is appraz'd thou'll be able to find how it stands with our demand, whether there will be enh or more than enh. for Husseys; as I know nothing of the value, nor our demand, I can form no judgment, our demand now is a Comp. matter on book (I know of none of my own seperately) & what thou hast pd. on acct. of Seth Folgers House out of wch. I think R Mitchell ought also to be reimbursd if not already done by T Mgr if Peter Macy should be at Nantucket I think he might aid the settlement very much; I wish thee to convey my sentiments to Molly Hussey, as thou may think proper, but to her alone & if thou thinks best to read such parts of the letter to F to her as may be proper thou may do it, but not put her in possession of,it, I want full & impartial justice should be done her so far as

is in my power; though we are not to give up our own property in the case but I wish her to get a letter fm. Folger before any thing is done. -since I wrote thee last we have red. back of G G Hussey the ballance of E Glovers voige, or rather rd. the whole & pd. him the amt of Glovers debts in Town, it now Standg thus. - Balle of E Glovers voige in the Hope as I wrote thee...643 -2-9

deduct 20 p Ct. for loss on Exche. (it was 25, but suppose an advance of 5 in Brt 128-126

due at par------Livers- 514-10-3

amt. of his voige in the Maria----------876- 2- 5
deduct Cash pd GG Hussey----------294- 4- 6
deduct depreciation on money at 34 pCt. on the paper 581-17-11
though it could not be exchang'd under 38 - & more- -197-16-11
on Stg Bills, but was 34 when the Marias cargo was 384-1---
but small part sold---due on both voiges at par----------Livers898-11-3

Amt. of L Glovers acct. in 12 mo c/o Canton L46.6.12 Livrs at #18----833-10-
due to l g at par Livers 65- 1-3

This I believe is the present state of the acct. - Ezekiel went fm on bd the Maria to Isaiah Hussey in Delagoa Bay- Isaiah had 150 Tuns last acct includg 12 of Sperm I find I made an error in Church Clarks acct. having omitted 150 livers pd his Son, therefore must make a new Calculation & send thee as soon as I can, as it alters the whole system. - Stephen Coleman Son of Christopher has lost his Ship in Delagoa Bay, has himself got to London. - no arrivals here since David Starbuck, the wind easterly, that none can come at present, we are no lookg for the Penelope, Mary & Hope. - I have got £ 1000 - Stg - insur'd on the Ospray at 4%. who shall look for as soon as a favourable wind. - I have nothing new to acquaint thee with ; we remain quiet since the Riot, & hope shall contine so, as its probable no more corn will be ship'd from this quarter. - a report circulated yesterday that the Emperor of Germany is dead (very suddenly), but no confirmation of it; if it should be so, it may make a great alteration in the Politiks of Europe at this critical juncture, but whether favourable or otherwise to the French Constitution is a great question of uncertainty. Exche. # 46 - Whale oil now would probably fetch 40 - & bone 40 - wch. we may calculate ab about 20 net Stg - IA & Son Bill of 50,000 on our acct. is paid, & the Sterg Bill they remitted is accepted. - The Emperor is dead supposed to be p------'d. -

c13 Mar 1792 #9 p3

The Canton is now waiting for a wind. - we are all well at present, as are our Nantucket Friends, in general - I wish to know whether Cousih Mary Coffin's Certificate has ever reachd her. I suppose it was sent long since - I. Phillips was one of the Committee who had the care of it -

not having time to add - I am with the rest of our family, love to you all Thy affe. father

W Rotch

Barkbeck & Ball are to send in the Galen - 10-60 Gl. & 6-80 Gl. tripots cast in loam (as the moulds are not ready); with the Cook pots,the remainder as soon as the moulds are done

[3 Apr 1792]

Letter from Wm. Rotch
dated at Dunkirk 4mo
3d 1792
Ansd -

SAMUEL RODMAN

NANTUCKET

Dunkirk 4th mo 3d. 1792

Dear Son Samuel Rodman

my last to thee was 19th ult. with advice of the arrival of the Penelope full of Sperm oil about or near 150 Tuns, it is now near all out & in fine order. I have now to make the satisfactory addition, that at 7 last evening the Hope enterd our Harbour safe, full of whale oil includg abt. 80 Bls. Sperm, perhaps 150 Tuns in the whole & all well Prince Coleman is in the Road full as I wrote before about 1300 Bls. Sperm. Int Haws arrivd some days ago abt. 850 Bls. Sperm oil he & G Whippey not being successfull together, parted leaving the poor Mary with but 40 Tuns, but he seems very sanguine she will fill, which I wish may be the case, but at the same time remember he knows nothing of the matter. The Favourite D. Folger is on his passage having only added one Small Spermaceti since he left the Bay, Laban Coffin had 700 Bls. Sperm oil when Hawes left the Coast, but had not put away; the Canton, & I Whippey saild about two weeks since. but got back into the Road two days after, where they still remain with strong Westerly winds; James Fosdick was taken very lame in one ancle first & then the other, suppose a rhumatick complaint; he went out of the Harbour in the Ship, but growing worse was brt. on Shore next morning not being fit to proceed, he has since been sometimes mending & at other times worse; Wm. Handy is mate of the Canton, she is well man'd though we are very sorry Fosdick could not proceed as we like him well; & if well enh. shall probably put him in mate of the Penelope, as In Worth & Clothier Allen intends for America. The Ospray does not yet appear; if she arrives safe its probable we shall sell her; as we have just bot. a fine Ship for O Paddock of about 290 Tuns, for which we gave £ 1700 Stg or 64600 livers as the exche that day was 38 - it is a high price but she is worth it; this accomadates us every way, & does not increase the number, the Maria being rotten & Falkland so small that we cannot make use of her. pray write immediately to I Parsons & have 50,000 Good Ltd. white Oak Staves purchas'd & shipd to Bedford when easy frt can be obtaind, ready for such conveyance as may drop in we shall want 100 m very much & some Barrel Staves, provide also 20 or 30 m boat Boards & lay by as soon as may be. - desire thou would also immediately procure 50 or 100 Reams of blue packing Candle paper it may weigh 28 to 30 the ream which is lighter than what is us'd here, but can get no

[3 Apr 1792] #10 p2

50 or 100 Reams of blue packing Candle paper it may weigh 28 to 30 the ream which is lighter than what is us'd here, but can get none of the right kind, pray dont fail procurg a part of the paer if cant the whole soon & ship by first vessell here, perhaps Shubl. Coffin may have one or Thad Swain please to tell Thaddeus, all that we can say to him is, that at present the Fishery is better than it has been, but whether it will be peace or war is very uncertain, therefore he must act his own judgment as to a Removal, Sperm oil we expect will fetch 3 Livers, Whale 2 per pot. Exche. is fluctuating it got up to 48 it was two days past at 38 - great Stock jobing on the paper of this Kingdom. we shall insure all our vessells untill a prospect of Peace being establishd. -

I have wrote thee twice, desiring thou would inform In Elkins that Betsy Lock was here, with an intention to go for America, but that she was in the last stage of a Consumption, & little prospect of her ever imbarking, & much less of her ever reaching the American Shore; a little time has verified our apprehentions, for she is now no more, having departed this life the 26th ult., and was interrd in a reputable manner the 28th in the protestant burying ground. -

we are well at present except colds which pervade our family. We have now the acceptable company of our friends Deborah Townsend of London & Mercy Ransom of Hitchen both valuable friends in the Ministry; thus it is an encouragement in our seperated State to find that we are not forgotten by the Great Master; may thou favours impress our minds with renewed animation to press forward through every impedement; we also expect two more after the Yearly meetg. Deborah Darby (a niece to Rachel Wilson) One of the conspicuous Stars in the present Hemisphere, with her, Rebecca Young, who I believe is also valuable. - pray inform Sister Sarah that Dear C Phillips, is again fully restor'd to her former brightness as to the Spiritual part, to the great joy & comfort of her numerous friends, in which I know she with us will largely partake; she has lately written an excellent letter to the, Magistrates, proprietors of mines & Miners in Cornwall, wch. I intend forwarding as soon as I can; her Body is much chaind down by infirmity, that she cannot get out, but what matter so long as the inner man is perfectly alive. -

[c3 Apr 1792] #10 p3

I have not time to add, except Our united unabating love to you all as if named. & am

Thy affectionate Father

W Rotch

My dear Son Wm. After perusal is desird to forward it.

[23 Apr 1792]

Letter from Wm.
Rotch concluded by
Benj'n. 4 mo. 23. 1792
Answerd - xxxxx

July. 6. 1792 Sh (?) 14

William Rotch junr.

Mercht

New Bedford

#11p1

Dunkirk 4th mo 23rd. 1792

Dear Son Samuel Rodman

I have little more time than to say the Ospray arriv'd Safe here the day before yesterday, all well, which brought us thine, with Wms. & the familys letters, which greatly relievd our anxious minds for the moment, having had no acct. fm. you for more than four months; but our anxiety returns & will remain on thy dear Elizas account untill we hear the termination of her then approaching trying situation, in which we earnestly hope she may be carried through without any uncommon suffering; relying on that Power that can sustain in the most proving seasons. - The Calamity of war wch. for a long time has threatned us, but I have as long entertaind a hope that the strike would by some means be averted, has now broken forth; France seeing a great combination formd against her, thought fit not to wait untill the forces of the enemies to her Constitution should unite, did on the 20th Instant declare war on the House of Austria, declaring she will indemnify all foreign N Nations for any damages sustaind by her Armies passing through any part of their Country, the war not being against property nor for conquest or teritory, but a against the persons that are endeavourg to destroy her Constitution, whether it will be a marine war or not is yet uncertain; but to guard against the loss of property so far as human prudence dictates, I have got all our vessells cover'd that are not in Port except the Ospray which I think we shall dispose of having navigation enh at present without her - vizh. ~~on the Hope Obed Paddack intended round Cape N~~

on the Hope Obed Paddack intended round Cape Horn ---------- L 2500 ---

Penn - O Fitch ---------- Cape Good Hope ---------- 2500 ----

Penelope Walter Brock (to whom we have sold 1/8) Brazils---------- 2500 ----

Ann. (Int Worth or some other person) which we lately bot. intendd for Brazil---------- 3000 -----

all at 10 Gl P Ct. The whole voige & a return of 3 p Ct if returns in 13 months fm. the time they depart the Harbour wch. is better than heretofore, 12 mo from the time the Insure. was made for the return of premium being the most we could get The Ospray we like well of her size, she is a strong vessell & sails very fast

[23 Apr 1792] #11 p2

they were on soundings in 20 days, she is much better than we expected, & should be fond of keepg her.

My Father being a little unwell with a dizziness in his head this morning desires me to finish his letter. and as I see he is on business. I will just add - the Ship Penelope turn'd out 155 Tuns of SpermaCeti oil & Head. but at the 2d filling for market it will turn out 150 - we have purchased this country sailors shares at a great advantage. have taken the Head Matter which is about 300 barrells @ 3.15 # pd Stoop - we set the Oil at 3. # but no demand at the present season. no doubt but in 3 or 4 month we shall obtain that price for it. - We have not finished starting the Hope's Large Casks but hope it will come up to 160 Tuns - Rone 13990. td we have been holding his Whale Oil @ L 10. but now despair obtaining it have given orders to sell at 36. pd Stoop. -

My Father desires me to say he did not know Frederick Folger's acct stood open but says it ought to be balanced and desires thee to do it. as we have no demand upon his estate for it. and my Father will explain it to thee another time. - no time add but our all dear Love to thy dear Name and all the family I am

as ever thy Ben Rotch

Dunkirk 4th mo. 23rd. 1792.

My dear Brother

As my Father was taken with a diziness this morning in his head desire me to add a few words to this for thee. saying the Ospray arrived safe the day before yesterday. had but 20 days passage to the mouth of the Channele as thou wilt peruse the foregoing to Samuel its unnecessary to repeat the same things. - W Handy is gone out Coffin Whippey's Mate in Ship Canton. as Jacaes Fosdick was left with the Rheumatism and is yet confined with it. Handy desires me to inform thee that he has lost or had stolen from him thy note of hand for the money he left in thy hands and desires if it should be presented that thou wilt stop it & not pay it by any means. - My Father had given orders to Homberg to remit two thousand pound. of thy property to London whenever the exchange should be at 20 the half Crown. he will write by this day's port to remit it on the best terms he can considering the declaration of war. upn. which it is possible exchange may rise some for a shot time but must

"letter 11" in index

they were on something in 20 days, she is much better than we expected, & should be
fond of seeing her.

My Father being a little unwell with a dizziness in his head this morning
desires me to finish the letter, and as I see he is on business, I will just add -
the Ship Penelope turn'd out 185 Tons of Spermaceti oil & Head. but as the 3d fishing
for market it will turn out 150 - we have purchased this country wellare course at
a great advantage. have taken the Head Matter which is worth 800 Barrells @ 3.15 pd
Hoop - we get the Oil at 2. but no demand at the present season. no doubt but in
3 or 4 month we shall obtain that price for it. - We have not finished starting
the Hope's large Casks but hope it will come up to 130 Tons - Bone 11500. If we have
been loading his Whale Oil @ 4. 10. but now despair obtaining it have given orders
to sell at 3£. pd Hoop. -

My Father desires me to say he did not know Frederick Folgate's aunt about
open but says it ought to be balanced and desires them to do it. as we have no demand
upon the estate for it. and my Father will explain it to them another time. - no
time and but our all dear love to my dear Mama and all the family I am

as ever thy Son Potch

Dunkirk 4th mo. 23rd. 1795.

My dear Brother

As my Father was taken with a dizziness this morning in his head desire me
to add a few words to this for them. reading the Quarry arrived safe the day before
yesterday. but but 20 days passage to the north of the Channels we been with moreso
the foregoing to Daniel the Lancashire to expect the Long Flight. - I Henry to
gone out Corbin Whippy's Date to Billy Dawson. as Thomas Forster was left with the
Plantation and he yet Continued with it. Hardy desires to be kindest time Mary he
Love or had obtain from his thy note of hand for the Money he left in thy hands and
desires if it should be presented that them will step it & not pay it by any means. -
My Father had given orders to Sankey to reach the Lancaster Canal. of thy property
to London whenever the Exchange should be at 20 the Bale Crown. we will write by
this Packet next to reach it on the best terms he can conveniently the Declaration

[c 23 Apr 1792] #11 p3

fall again. - be assured we shall watbh over thy interest as over our own. - no time to add.but affectionately salute you all with sincere fraternal Love

By Rotch

we are looking for the Mary to arrive every hour -

To Thomas Rotch, New Bedford
By the Ann.

Dunkirk, 5th mo., 13th, 1792 #12 p1

My dear Children, Thomas & Charity

I have long intended to give you some token of Parental simpathy on the late removal of your dear little engaging Tomy, but many intervening objects has hitherto prevented me. I have not the least apprehention that this delay will be by you imputed to a want of parental tenderness or any diminution of that affection which I may say unceasingly flows to every branch of my dear family, both natural & ingrafted; on hearing of the trying scene you had passed through we became partaker in your suffering I believe as far as was mete under the consideration that it was He who rules Heaven and in and amongst the Children of Men, so far as* gives and takes away, and may we under every dispensation of his Providence be enabled to say "blessed be his name", nature demanded the simpathetic tear to be mingled with yours in the deprivation of one of the tenderest pledges of conjugal affection; yet on the part of the dear babe it was rather to me a time of secret joy that it was delivered from the agonising pain that it suffer'd; which I think must even to you who are the greatest sharers in the affliction be attended with more poignant sorrow, than that of its releasement therefrom, and now dear Children as those trials are permited perhaps for our good, let us endeavour to proffit thereby remembering that affliction arise not out of the dust nor trouble from the Ground, but are dispens'd by the hand of unerring wisdom I have had to drink large drafts at times, and not a few of various kinds since I have left you, but I hope they have not been altogether unprofitable; my earnest desire is that neither hights or depths may ever be able to seperate me from that love, which I hope has not wholly left me, but is in measure as an Anchor to a tried & often tossed mind; you are with the rest of my dear Children much the companions of my mind, and I should long to be with you, if I did not apprehend my place was in this land for the present; not that I can flatter myself in any good, yet I desire to contribute secretly in bearing the Ark of the Testimony, which if faithfull in that little, it may tend to encourage others, or make the way easier to those who may ******* follow after; though this is but a dark spot as to true religion, yet we are at times comforted in find'g one here, and another there enquiring the way to peace sick of their own Religion, so wrapt up in misterious** nourishment of the Soul can be found, by such who have given way to the Heavenly leader within; among those several from the South of France have become our acquaintance, one in particular who left us lately to return home, though with great reluctance on his as well as our parts, but I hope he has with Mary chosen that good part (which if he abides under the conviction and convincements which has been mercifully extended to him) that will never be taken from him. Benj. & myself have some thoughts if it comes easy, to take a journey into the South of France where we find there are many libereal minded young men, I do not mean those who makes some profession with us, but quite distinct from them; I have no curiosity to satisfy in such an undertaking, but if we could show ourselves, and beget an enquiry in some after our principles, which if any good should ever come of it, let him have the praise to whom it belong.

We have lately had a satisfactory Religious visit from our valued Friends Deborah Townsend & Mercy Ransom, and expect two friends more on the same errand after the Yearly Meeting, who may also be ranked among the Worthies of our day viz. Deborah Darby (niece to Rachel Wetson) & Rebecca Young; it is no small comfort and encouragement to find we are not forgotten. I expect with Lydia to set out tomorrow on our way for Calais to the Yearly Meeting in London. None of the rest of our family reached it this year, We are surrounded with hostile preparation, many Troops in Town, that your dear Mother is not easy to leave home at this time & Benj. has now four of our vessells on hand near sailing that necessairly detain him. I am with endeared love to you with the rest of our dear Children & near relatives particularly Sister Rodman thy aff't

Father

W Rotch

* they are obedient to the dictates of his law who
** in ever being made a conspicuous instrument
3 * superstition and bigotry that no substantial

[18 May 1792]

Letter from Wm Rotch
London 5 m 18 1792
xxxx Answer'd -

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

c/o the Olive Branch
Capn. Calder

#13 p1

London 5 mo 18. 1792

Dear Son Samuel Rodman

I have lately wrote thee but do not recollect the date. the Ann W Moores Mr. Master is preparing for N Bedford & the Fishery; she will be compleatly fitted for Whaling & will probably hardly want an article but some indian Corn for Stock; we shall want a Master for her but thou need make no movements that way, as its probable she will be provided, we shall want a very good second Mate, she is a fine Ship & Coper'd to the light water line. In. Worth & Brock will return in the Ann, the first who is a good man for the fishery we wishd to have taken one of the vessells & Saild fm Dunkirk again, but being long fm his family inclind to return, Brock was shipd to the Penelope & to own i/8 but he finds himself too much unwell to proceed on another voige, & I doubt his ever making another voige, I am sorry it was so with him as he is a very good man for the business, indeed we have none but such. the Ann if she arrives safe must be got away in early season for the Brazils I hope by the middle of the 8th month - potatoes are the only article that probably need detain her, & they may be got earlier fm N York or New Port than Nantucket. - we cannot carry on our business without a vessell to run between Dunkirk & America, therefore thou must look out and purchase a carrying Brig of about 150 Tuns if to be got at about L 600 Lnd. or under but she must not be old, & must be well examind by boreing, thou can have Mooers assistance & he will come in her try to get one that is built of White Oak, avoid a North River (in Massachusetts) vessell, they are poor things, if she will make no money she will save some, for we must have a load of Staves the coming fall, at all events if the fishery is to be carried on, therefore, pray engage 50 m good Ltd. Staves as soon as possible & some barrells wch. are equally wanted, get them season'd if at near the same price; Boat Boards may be provided for a second Cargo, a little boat timber with Stems & knees & 500 feet 2 Inch Oak plank for keels with 2 or 300 feet 72 Inch oak boards will do for the present: our vessells are all near sailg. and all insurd when they are gone I can give thee a compleat statement of our affairs here as everything will be swept of that is on hand. - remember to take out a New Register for the Ann in thine & my name only, of Nantucket & make no mention of my being a resident in Dunkirk as I am only a visitor, make no mention of Bs name in the case - deliver up the Old R

[c 18 May 1792] #13 p2

Rigester & take a Certificate as I am bound to the former Capn for it. if the least difficulty at Nantucket, take it out at Bedford, It was with inexpressible pleasure that we recd. thine of the 3d mo 24th (Ibelieve) giving the acct. of Elizas being safe in bed, our anxiety was much reliev'd, but we are now solicitous to have a later acct, well knowing that in her situation various states attend before the recovery of usual health. (21)
we have just recd an acct. by an India Ship that Isaiah Hussey fm. round Cape Good Hope was full chiefly whale oil & that Danl Coffin fm. Coast of Peru was also full of Sperm oil both at the Isd. of St. Helena but have not had oppty to inquire for any particulars; several Ships are just arrivd here with a great quy of Ships & a short voige one of the Delano's is one, I suppose Abisha; but the attendance of this Meetg engroses all my time except a little to to visit my Friends who I do not find to decrease but far otherwise; I cannot mention any that thou knows except I Storer & T Colly, the first I have only heard, who appears eminently favour'd with a sound Ministry in old age which is beautiful indeed; to our great satisfaction we find several female Frds. of the first Rank. likely to visit us at Dunkirk I believe four, Deborah Darby, Martha Routh, Christiana Hustler (perhaps) & Rebecca Young - I wish I had more time to enlarge, & also to write Eliza as you will have no letters fm me by the Ann, but hope the other branches of the family will supply the place. - meetg time coming love to all thy affe. father W Rotch

Liverpool 7th mo 16th. 1792

My dear Son Samuel Rodman

The last I recd fm. thee before I left Dunkirk I believe was the 3d mo 24th - the morning thy dear Eliza. was put to bed, the next acct. fm. her was by Wms. letter of the 4 mo 20 (Ibelieve) giving us the effecting account of her illness, but that she had been a little better for 2 or 3 days; favourably for us, the letters of a prior date giving the most alarming acct of her situation did not reach us untill the rect. of the other, which gave us a gleam of hope, yet I may say it was but little alleviation to my mind wch. was filld with fearfull apprehentions, but several of thine & Wms letters have reachd Dunkirk since with the favourable account of her recovery so far as to be able to ride out, & had some view of the y Meetg. (I wish she may not overdo herself & bring on a relapse) her recovery thus far demands our gratefull thankfullness to the Author of all our blessings, should it be his will to continue her a little longer, I hope it will be with a full dedication of heart on her part, and to his Glory; I intend writing her when I can get time; I do not recollect when I wrote thee last, but it is sometime since, for I have quite unhingd for that purpose since I recd. the acct. of Elizas illness; but shall now resume it so far as to give thee some short acct. of what occurs, & time will permit; Lydia is here with me, we have been from Dunkirk about two months except returng there with Deboh. Darby & Rebecca Young whose stay was but four days; we came back with them, they went down the Coast to Cross over again to Guernday we came to London, thence to York Qt. Mg. where we parted, she came to Kendal; I went to North Sheild to giverdirections in the Marias repairs, as we thout. her too bad to send to America with safety, by what estimation we could make with the head Carpenter, I hope her repairs will not exceed 300 or 350 Stg. & be done timely to get out on a whale voige by the middle of the 9th mo, we shall have her filld with good Greenland oil Cask at 20/ per Tun, wch differ. in their value at Dunkirk, will I suppose pay all the expence of sendg her & getg her back to Dunk. (exclusive repairs) I went fm Shield through New Castle to Durham Q Mg. back to New Castle, thence by way of Carlisle to Kendal where I joind Lydia & found her well, we then came to Lancaster Q Mg and thence to this place, I mention the different places not as interesting to you but that you may trace them by the Map; our route has been really satisfactory

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and has I think fully answerd my expectation, having undertaken it much more on Lydia's acct. than my own, to give her some view of the Country, but far above that, to afford her an oppy. to be in company with many valuable friends at the Different Meetgs, wch. I think has not been unprofitable to her, but I hope has made some Religious impression on her mind which I greatly desire may never be erased; indeed many have been the encouraging testimonies imparted to our family at Dunkirk as well as in this land from Dignified servants, which makes our seperated state not so hard to bear, (though sufficiently trying), believeing it is all in wisdom that we are here, and the hope of rejoining you if favourd with life & health (though perhaps not quite within the time proposed when I left you) keeps up our spirits, so as not to render our stay so irksome or so disagreable as not to be reconcild, on I hope proper grounds. - The Penelope being our last Ship, saild some days past with a fair wind in compy. with the Favourite, my last letters fm. Benjn. was the 10th Inst. when they were all well; the Mary is arrivd with about 500 Bl. Sperm oil, Whippey announc'd 600 - but he shipd a very heavy sea off the Falkd. Islds., intirely swept his decks, & shock'd the vessell in every part to a great degree, broke the stanchions in the hold & injur'd the Cargo much, that great breakage attends it; B & myself unites in judgment that its best to get her reapird only fit for America & send her out to Wm. with some head matter we have purchas'd some time ago now the Marys will be added & some prospect of more when the vessell arrives; Wm. & Thos. Money is remitted to Dickason & Co by Hamberg say £1709 -7-Stg wch. B will draw for again if he can purchase head on suitable terms, or so far as he can purchase; it would be impossible to get good Officers for the Mary if we were minded to send her out, nor will she sell at this time; I hope the damage she has sustained will fall on the underwriters, I think it must - I do not hear that Laban Coffin is yet in, he was at Rio Janario (I believe with 700 Bls. of oil) long since, intendg to take some dye wood on pt. for Falmouth. I have been thus particular in what concerns Wm., intendg to send this to him for perusal as I doubt having time to write him; our Cousin Reuben Macy & Abnr. Coffin are here bound for N York; - we are (A C & self on very friendly terms at present, hope it may continue, indeed I feel no ill towards him, but sincerely wish him well). - if Anthonys have not been able to raise money out of livers to answer thy purpose & that of Thos's deficiency

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out of livers to answer thy purpose & that of Thos's deficiency, thou may draw for Sterg. on De Bauques, but not for any speculations on our own acct., the state of things in France will not permit it; - our Bounties are orderd & establishd in future. I hope the Ann will soon be with you as I believe she has been out Six weeks. - as I am desirous to get out of business on the return of our vessells, hope thou'll be able to furnish us with an Inventory, some time this year, as I think it the right time to leave it. - we expect to be in London if well in about a week to accompany two of our very particular valuable friends in the Ministry to Dunkirk Martha Routh & Christiana Hustler, indeed we have cause to be thankfull to the great Master in condescending to influence the minds of his servants to look towards us, and not altogether with the Rod, but with a degree of consolation to our tried minds, which hath truly been so many ways, in untrodden paths; may we be strengthened not to let fall the testimony, nor bring any reproach upon that noble principle so much suffer'd for by our ancesters. - as Benjn had not time to give me any of the heads of thy letter on business I can make no reply, but hope ere long to write thee again. - I am with endeared love to you all as if named

Thy affectionate father W Rotch

Consider both as "Letter 4" in index

my Dear Son Wm.

When I began I did not expect to have time to write to thee, nor can I say much but refer thee to the enclosed to Samy; thou may rely on our doing the best we can with thy Interest, for thy Interest it is expected oil & head will be sold in London when the vessells arrive fm. the Coast of Peru under £ 36 - wch. was the last price, some say it will not exceed 30 we shall keep our eye that way for head if better than in Dunkirk; but are more afraid of London head than Dunkirk as we find the first have often 1/3 & the latter but ¼ - but shall do as appears best. - in hast with love to you all I am

Thy affe father W Rotch

[29 Jul 1792]

Letter from Wm
Rotch dated in
London 7 mo. 29th. 1792
xxxx Answ'd -

#15 p1

London 7th mo 29th. 1792

My dear Son Samuel Rodman

I wrote thee from Liverpool by the way of New York, but do not recollect the date. I find by Benjm. he has recd several letters from thee and Wm. but can make no reply untill I know the contents as I directed all that should be recd here to be sent to Dunkirk in my absense, that the family might receive the earliest information of Dear Elizas situation; our great anxiety is much reliev'd at present from the agreeable accounts of her recovery so far as to be able to ride out; but I still remember how easy it is for the poor body to be pulld down, by a relapse, after the most flattering prospects, but I desire to leave it to Him who hath mercifully dealt with us in abundant kindness & love unspeakable many ways. - I have with Lydia been from Dunkirk six weeks mostly in the North in a circuitous journey undertaken mostly on her acct.,to give her an oppy of being among our numerous kind friends at several Quly Meetgs. much to our satisfaction & I hope to her benefit in the best sense; we now expect to return in 3 days with Martha Routh & Christiana Hustler who are on a Religious visit two of my valuable particular friends. Benjn. is fitting the Mary for Bedford her voige turned out but 500 Bls., all Sperm by her; I hope to write thee fully if not too much engag'd with our frds. thy Bill on Dickason has appear'd & is accepted (say £ 500) I wish thee now to draw also for Thos. what I formerly propos'd or desire him to do it, on De Bauques in Stg. as I suppose livers are hardly of any value with you, & we shall order where the drafts shall be paid in London; unless Anthonys have been successfull enh to sell Livers to answer that purpose; upon the whole I think it will be better to let Thos. draw himself when he wants, or can appropriate it to advantage; I hope thou hast recd a little Supply by the Ann before now, I believe about £ 410 Lmd we would gladly have sent £ 1000 but the risque (nor of the Sea) was too great. when thou mentions the rect. of it let it be in terms not very intelligible. - I wish thee to make no Speculations for France at present; that fine Kingdom is in a deplorable situation, owing as I apprehend to the violence of the Jacobins, many of whom are in the Assembly, & they wholly under the control

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of that Club, they have lost the confidence of the people, all seems going to wreck, not the least prospect of the Constitution being supported; the powers without are now drawing towards France in a force of about 200,000 men; I am not disappointed in the present prospect, having given the matter up ever since the early part of the setting of the present assembly, seeing their trifling conduct; Benjn has held out strongly, untill the last letter I recd. from hime a few days since, where he quite unites with me, that the cause is lost unless some Providntial interposition. beyond what we have any reason to expect; the Assembly seems peculiarly qualified to create & increase enemys, they are now quarrelling with Le Fyeb, I suppose he cannot unite with their too wild Republican Spirit; I hope the King, Queen and Dauphins life will be spar'd, but I am not without my fears for their safety, from the violent patriotism that proposses those at the head of affairs at this time; RevolutionsI believe generally wear the same features, except in such a case as Poland, where it was by general consent, except a small portion of the Nobiolty; but that wicked Empress of Russia, the troubler of the peace of Europe & Enemy to mankind, is at work on the poor Ples, & I fear will overthrow them. I have no doubt but France might have secur'd a very good Constitution by a compromise with the ex Princes, but the flaming Patriots dispise all Ideas of that kind, determining I suppose on the old Maxim of loose the horse or win the Saddle, I cannot better describe the present than to say they are much like our violent Patriots in America in the time of our Revolution, moderate men have no influence, therefore they withdraw as much as they can. -

I never expectd to be in this midst of a second Revolution, but am not sorry that I am here (in France) considering our own affairs requires it; I wrote thee before that our Bounties are now made prominent, bu which we have no need to apply frm time to time for the grant to be made as we have been since the breakg up of the old Government; & I find by Bts last letter, Louis DeBauques was returnd frm Paris where he had been on this business & has recd all our Bounties except the Mary's, whose papers for her present vioges did not arrive quite in time, but suppose will be paid soon. - if at any time when thou has occasion to draw & it be more convenient to draw on Dickason & pass the Bills through his Son Thos. hands

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suppose will be paid soon. - if at any time when thou has occasion to draw & its more convenient to draw on Dickason & pass the Bills through his Son Thos. hands thou may do it only I suppose we shall have the usual commissn to pay, for receiving & paying, wch by drawg on DeB's we save, our Money being in the Bankers hands here; I believe we have now about four Thousd here, the purchase of the Ann her Copper etc. with the premiums(which are all pd) has reduc'd the sum we had here very much; but I hope when the Hopes and Penelopes Cargoes are sold we shall be able to add about Three more & everything paid for the Maria is at North Shields (near New Castle upon Line) as I believe I mentiond before, expect her repairs are now in great forwardness - our vessells being all out (except this Ship), I hope soon to be able to see just our property here, and when I receive the Inventory frm thee, shall be better qualified to arrange our matters fully for a final settlement, so as for me to leave the business intirely, I think at the return of the vessells if they do return, will be the proper time; I shall then wish to know whether thou would choose to continue thy whole share here, or whether thou can do better with part of it in America. I find by some sad neglect of Birkbeck & Ball the remainder of our try pots are not shipd altho they promissed me they should go in a Ship near sailing when I went into the North, they are now to go by Barnard they have been long made & waiting an oppy which they neglected embracing. - Its probable from the plenty of Sperm oil frm the Pacific Ocean it will be low here, the last sodd for L 34, head & body; I also expect our Market in France will also be glutted. - I desire thou would send us as soon as may be a Barrel of Maple Sugar & some good dry Cod, at any time, which I forgot before to mention. if thou should purchase a vessell of 150 or 60 tuns as we wrote for Moers to come in with Staves we ought to have beef enh for the Lydia & Dianna in her, perhaps 80 bbls. the other Ships will not want untill another voige to America can be made; we must have our Beef from that Quarter, whether Pork or not, I cannot yet determinel the growth of Grain in this Country (Eng) is great this year yet there is a prospect of Scarcity, frm the abundant rain this Spring & summer which still continues to be too frequent for the necessary help of vegetation, I observ'd the wheat to be much beaten down

[29 Jul 1792] #15 p4

by the rain as I passed the Country & much of it by that means will never ripen; but can't say how it is in France. Its probable we shall want Mollasses frm America if any saving, the last in Dunkirk was 40#per Ct (96 Engh.) on which thou can't calculate. thou see, I run from one thing to another just as they occur. - Thou must attend to the article of Ltd & Barrel Staves to have a quty always provided at the best season for price, & that they may be season'd, it is an object that even this year has given us great advantage over others in quality, price & timely supply, by having the Staves under our own command. - I have engag'd some Greenland Casks at No Shields of which the Maria is to be filld at about 20 Stg. per Tun & to be in very good order I saw some of them when I was there, this saving I think will help us out (word obliterated) I fully intended to have wrote my dear daughr. Elize. - but I know she will not attribute the omission to want of affection which on acct. of her late illness seems if possible to be redoubled, but I do not expect to have time by this oppy. but I hope to by the Mary.

I am with endeared love to you all as if named

Thy affectionate father

Wm Rotch